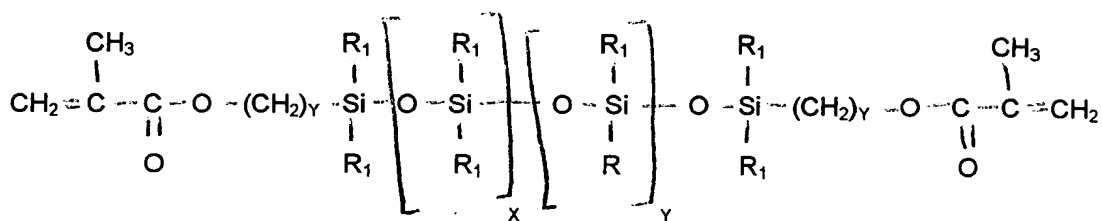


We claim:

1. Aromatic-based siloxane macromonomers comprising:



wherein the R groups may be the same or different aromatic-based substituents;
 R_1 is an aromatic-based substituent or an alkyl; x is a non-negative integer; and y
 is a natural number.

2. The macromonomer of claim 1 wherein said R groups may be the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic-based substituents.

4. The macromonomer of claim 1 wherein said R₁ groups may be the same or different aromatic-based substituents or alkyl substituents.
5. The macromonomer of claim 1 wherein said R₁ groups may be the same or different C₆₋₃₀ aromatic-based substituents or C₁₋₄ alkyl substituents.
6. A polymeric composition produced through the polymerization of one or more macromonomers of claim 1.
7. A polymeric composition produced through the copolymerization of one or more macromonomers of claim 1 with one or more non-siloxy aromatic-based monomers.
8. A polymeric composition produced through the copolymerization of one or more macromonomers of claim 1 with one or more non-aromatic-based hydrophobic monomers.
9. A polymeric composition produced through the copolymerization of one or more macromonomers of claim 1 with one or more non-aromatic-based hydrophilic monomers.

10. A method of producing the aromatic-based siloxane macromonomers of claim 1 comprising:
polymerizing a hydride functionalized cyclic siloxane with a methacrylate-capped disiloxane to form a hydride containing siloxane; and
hydrosilylizing with a catalyst and an allylic functionalized aromatic, said hydride containing siloxane.
11. The polymeric compositions of claim 7 wherein said one or more non-siloxy aromatic-based monomers are selected from the group consisting of 2-phenyloxyethyl methacrylate, 3,3-diphenylpropyl methacrylate, 2-(1-naphthylethyl methacrylate) and 2-(2-naphthylethyl methacrylate).
12. The polymeric compositions of claim 8 wherein said one or more non-aromatic-based hydrophobic monomers are selected from the group consisting of 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 3-methacryloyloxypropyldiphenylmethyilsilane and 2-phenyloxyethyl methacrylate.

13. The polymeric compositions of claim 9 wherein said one or more non-aromatic-based hydrophilic monomers are selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylacrylamide and methyl methacrylate.
14. A method of producing ophthalmic devices from the polymeric compositions of claim 6, 7, 8 or 9 comprising:
casting one or more polymeric compositions in the form of a rod;
lathing or machining said rod into disks; and
lathing or machining said disks into ophthalmic devices.
15. A method of producing ophthalmic devices from the polymeric compositions of claim 6, 7, 8 or 9 comprising:
pouring one or more polymeric compositions into a mold prior to curing;
curing said one or more polymeric compositions; and
removing said one or more polymeric compositions from said mold following curing thereof.
16. A method of using the ophthalmic device of claim 14 or 15 comprising:
making an incision in the cornea of an eye; and
implanting said ophthalmic device within the eye.

17. The method of claim 14, 15 or 16 wherein said ophthalmic device is an intraocular lens or corneal inlay.
18. The method of claim 14 or 15 wherein said ophthalmic device is a contact lens.
19. The polymeric composition of claim 6, 7, 8 or 9 wherein one or more strengthening agents are added prior to polymerization or copolymerization selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl acrylates and methacrylates.
20. The polymeric composition of claim 6, 7, 8 or 9 wherein one or more crosslinking agents are added prior to polymerization or copolymerization selected from the group consisting of diacrylates and dimethacrylates of triethylene glycol, butyl glycol, hexane-1,6-diol, thio-diethylene glycol, ethylene glycol and neopentyl glycol, N,N'-dihydroxyethylene bisacrylamide, diallyl phthalate, triallyl cyanurate, divinylbenzene, ethylene glycol divinyl ether, N,N'-methylene-bis-(meth)acrylamide, sulfonated divinylbenzene and divinylsulfone.